## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-12** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

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R 171605Z JUL 75 FM AMCONSUL NAPLES TO SECSTATE WASH 4507 INFO AMEMBASSY ROME AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A EINV, IT

SUBJECT: RICHARDSON-MERRELL: FIRM FIRES 381 EMPLOYEES

REF: NAPLES 734, NAPLES 665, NAPLES 596, NAPLES 099

1. ON JULY 14 R-M SENT TERMINATION NOTICES TO 381 EMPLOYEES, THUS CARRYING OUT ITS PLAN TO FIRE ALMOST 4 OF ITS LABOR FORCE IN ORDER TO RESTRUCTURE ITS ENTIRE OPERATION. UPON BECOMING AWARE OF R-M'S DECISION, WORKERS DECLARED AN "ASSEMBLEA PERMANENTE" AT THE PLANT INSISTING THAT THIS CONTINUOUS MEETING OF THE WORKERS DID NOT CONSTITUTE AN OCCUPATION OF THE PLANT. ON JULY 16, FINDING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS, R-M LOCAL PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ AND THE REST OF HIS MANAGEMENT STAFF VACATED THE PLANT PREMISES.

PAGE 2 RUFLSKA3520 C O N F I D E N T I A L

HERNANDEZ TOLD REPORTING OFFICER THAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OCCUPATION AND "ASSEMBLEA PERMANENTE" IS ONE OF "LEGAL SEMANTICS" BUT AMOUNTS TO THE SAME THING. HE ADDED THAT ON JULY 17 HE WOULD ASK THE PREFECT TO REQUEST A COURT ORDER RESTORING MANAGEMENT TO ITS POSITION

IF, AFTER THIS IS EFFECTED, THE "ASSEMBLEA PERMANENTE" PERSISTS, HE WILL "ROUTINELY" ASK THE PREFECT TO "GET THE PEOPLE OUT" TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENABLE MANAGEMENT TO RESUME PLANT OPERATIONS.

2. THE PCI, AS EXPECTED, HAS REACTED VIGOROUSLY TO THE R-M FIRINGS. IN AN COMMUNIQUE RELEASED ON JULY 15 THE SECRETARIAT OF THE REGIONAL COMMUNIST PARTY DECLARED THAT THE FIRINGS REFLECT "THE LOGIC OF MULTINATIONALS: MAXIMIZE PROFITS REGARDLESS OF THE COUNTRY'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS." THE COMMUNIQUE FURTHER STATES THAT THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD INTERVENE AND THAT THE ENTE NAZIONALE IDROCARBURI (ENI) SHOULD RELIEVE R-M'S MANAGEMENT OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSUME CONTROL OF FIRM.

3. COMMENT: HERNANDEZ DOUBTS THE PREFECT WILL TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WILL ANTAGONIZE THE WORKERS, BUT IN UNLOADING THE PROBLEM ON THE PREFECT'S DOORSTEP, HERNANDEZ STATES HE RETAINS HIS LEGAL POSITION AS A CORPORATE MANAGER, AND IN EFFECT, FORCES LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PROBLEM THAT HE, NOTWITHSTANDING A GREAT DEAL OF

PAGE 3 RUFLSKA3520 C O N F I D E N T I A L NEGOTIATION, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SOLVE. COLANTONIO

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## Message Attributes

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